



G. S. PAPER – I (SOCIETY)

Role of Women and Women's Organization

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Section A: Introduction

Original sin in the Garden of Eden was woman's. She tasted the forbidden fruit, tempted Adam and has been paying for it ever since. In Genesis, the Lord said, "I will greatly multiply the sorrow and the conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee"

-The Holy Bible

Society, which is largely male dominated, would regard the above quotation as a mythological justification for the position of women in society. Not only men, even most women internalize their position in society as a fair description of their status through the ages. These generalizations apply to some degree to practically every known society in the world.

Women play various roles in their lifetime ranging from a mother to that of a breadwinner but are almost always subordinated to male authority; largely excluded from high status occupation and decision making both at work and at home.

Paradoxically, even in our Indian society where women goddesses are worshipped, women are denied an independent identity and status.

In recent years, particularly with the rise of Women's Liberation Movement, this discrimination against women has been widely debated. Two main positions have emerged from this debate. One maintains that this inequality between the sexes is based upon the biologically or genetically based differences between men and women. This view is opposed by the argument that gender roles are culturally determined and inequality between the sexes is a result of a long drawn process of socialization.

Section B- Background: Women's Liberation Movement

Social movement: It is defined as an organized effort by a group of people, either to bring or resist change, in the society.

Objective: Women's movement is a variant of social movement & it aims to bring changes in the institutional arrangements, values, customs and beliefs in the society that have subjugated women over the years.

Origin: British rule led to spread of English education and western liberal ideology resulted in a number of movements for social change & religious reform in 19th C. Women's movement is linked to both social reform movements & the nationalist movement.

a) Social reform movements:

- 1) **Brahmo Samaj:** It was founded by Raja Ram Mohan Roy in 1825 & attempted to abolish restrictions and prejudices against women, which included child marriage, polygamy, limited rights to inherit property. Education was seen as the major factor to improve the position of women.
 - *Civil Marriage Act, 1872* was passed, which permitted inter-caste marriage, legalized divorce and fixed 14 and 18 as the minimum age of marriage for girls and boys respectively
 - Raja Ram Mohan Roy played an important role in getting Sati abolished
- 2) **Prarthana Samaj:** It was founded by MG Ranade & RG Bhandarker in 1867. Its objectives were more or less similar to that of Brahmo samaj but remained confined to western India. Justice Ranade criticized child marriage, polygamy, restriction on remarriage of widows and non access to education.

- 3) **Arya Samaj**: It was founded by Dayanand Saraswati in 1875. Unlike the above two it was a religious revivalist movement. It advocated reform in the caste system, compulsory education for men and women, prohibition of child marriage by law, remarriage of child widows. It was opposed to divorce & widow remarriage in general.
- 4) Social reformers mentioned above eulogized the position of women in ancient India. However radicals like Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, Jyotibha Phule and Lokhitwadi Gopal Hari Deshmukh accused the caste system responsible for the subjugation of women in society.
- 5) Similar movements began in Islamic community as well. Begum of Bhopal, Syed Ahmad Khan & Sheikh Abdullah in Aligarh and Karmat Hussain in Lucknow spearheaded a movement to improve women's education.

Weakness: Gender equality was never an agenda for any of the movements mentioned above. They had a very limited perspective of changing the position of women within the family through education, as education would improve women's efficiency as housewives and mothers!

b) **Freedom Movement**

"Women is the companion of man gifted with equal mental capacities"

-Mahatma Gandhi

Gandhiji took interest in collective mobilization of women to fight for political freedom as well as for their social and political rights. He felt that women were most suited for Satyagraha as they have great qualities appropriate for non violent struggle.

Women participated in the freedom movement because they were inspired by patriotism and wanted to see the end of foreign rule. It is debatable as to how far this participation liberated them. While women who picketed shops, marched in processions or went to jail or threw bombs did not question male leadership or patriarchal values, it did generate in them a sense of self-confidence and a realization of their own strength. The first woman to participate in the nationalist movement during salt march was **Sarojini Naidu** who later became the first woman president of the Congress.

Women's participation in the national movement helped in breaking several of the old barriers of tradition and custom. Women's organization side by side raised their voices for removal of social injustice meted to them, which resulted in passing of the resolution on Fundamental Right of equal rights for both the sexes at the Karachi session of the Indian National Congress in 1930.

Social reform movement & nationalist movement led to the enactment of various legislative acts & set the ground right for incorporating various provisions to support women's movement, in the Indian Constitution.

Section C: Legislative Acts

Parliament from time to time has passed several legislations to empower women & to provide them a legal basis in their fight for equality & justice. Some of them are:

- 1) **Sati (Prevention) Act 1987** – The practice of Sati which was first abolished in 1829, was revised and made illegal in 1887. It provided for a more effective prevention of the commission of sati and its glorification and for matters connected therewith.
- 2) **Amendment to criminal Act 1983**- This Act talks about domestic violence as an offence, rape is also made a punishable offence.

- 3) **Special Marriage Act 1954**- It has been amended to fix the minimum age of marriage at 21 yrs for males & 18 yrs for females.
- 4) **Hindu Succession Act 1956**- Equal share to daughter from property of father, while a widow has the right to inherit husband's property. An amendment in this Act in 2005 enabled daughters to have equal share in ancestral properties.
- 5) **Immoral Traffic Prevention Act (ITPA), 1986**- Suppression of Immoral Trafficking in women and girls Act (SITA) 1956 was amended in 1986 & renamed ITPA. SITA was enacted to prohibit or abolish traffic in women and girls for purposes of prostitution. It was amended to cover both the sexes & provided enhanced penalties for offenses involving minors. However the system has failed to crack the mafia working both at interstate and international levels.
- 6) **Dowry Prohibition Act 1961**- Now court is empowered to act in his own knowledge or on a complaint by any recognized welfare organization on dowry murder. Indian Evidence Act is also amended to shift the burden of proof to husband & his family where bride dies within 7 yrs of marriage.
- 7) **Maternity benefit Act 1961**- An Act to regulate the employment of women for certain period before and after childbirth and to provide for maternity benefits like paid leaves for 6 months.
- 8) **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 1971**- Legalize abortion in case if fetus is suffering from physical or mental abnormality, in case of rape & unwanted pregnancy within 12 weeks of gestation period & after 12th week, before 20th week if the pregnancy is harmful for the mother or the child born would be severely deformed.
- 9) **Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986**- This Act prohibits indecent representation of women through advertisements or in publications, writings, paintings, and figures or in any other manner and for matters connected therewith.
- 10) **Domestic Violence Act 2005**- It seeks to determine domestic violence in all forms against women & make it a punishable offence.
- 11) **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013** – In the backdrop of Dec 16 gang rape, this Act was passed amending the CrPC. The new law has provisions for increased sentence for rape convicts, including life-term and death sentence, besides providing for stringent punishment for offences such as acid attacks, stalking and voyeurism. Through the revised Bill, the government has amended various sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Indian Evidence Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act.

Section D : Constitutional Provisions for women in our constitution

- 1) **Article 14** - Men and women to have equal rights and opportunities in the political, economic and social spheres.
- 2) **Article 15(1)** - Prohibits discrimination against any citizen on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex etc.
- 3) **Article 15(3)**- Special provision enabling the State to make affirmative discriminations in favor of women.
- 4) **Article 16**- Equality of opportunities in matter of public appointments for all citizens.
- 5) **Article 23**- Bans trafficking in human and forced labor
- 6) **Article 39(a)**- The State shall direct its policy towards securing all citizens men and women, equally, the right to means of livelihood.
- 7) **Article 39(d)**- Equal pay for equal work for both men and women.
- 8) **Article 42**- The State to make provision for ensuring just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief.
- 9) **Article 51 (A)(e)**- To renounce the practices derogatory to the dignity of women
- 10) **Article 300 (A)**- Right of property to women

- 11) **73rd & 74th Amendment Act 1992**- Reservation of 1/3rd of seats in local bodies of panchayats and municipalities for women.

(The day on which 73rd amendment became operational i.e April 24th is also declared as **Women's Empowerment Day**).

*Though at the time of our independence our constitution guaranteed social, economic & political equality, rights & protection to the Indian women however in reality we have still not been able to provide their due status in the society which has had led to the resurgence of **issue based movements earlier in 1970s & has gained momentum again recently like anti dowry movement, anti rape movements etc.***

Section E: Indicators of Women's Status in India

There are different forms of violence on women, which act as threats to women's independent identity and dignity. Forms of violence are:

- 1) **Female foeticide & infanticide**- According to a survey by British medical journal, Lancet, nearly 10 million female abortions have taken place in India in the last 20 years, which is rampant amongst the educated Indian middle class as well.
There are organizations like Swachetan, which are working towards educating & bringing awareness in people against the ghastly act.
- 2) **Rape, sexual harassment & abuse**- It acts as a deterrent to women's freedom & perpetuates the notion that women are the weaker sex. Every 2 hours, a rape occurs somewhere in India!
The recent Dec. 16 Delhi Gang rape case, shook the entire country and led to protests all across the country, setting up of Justice Verma panel & helped in the fast track judgment of the case. However rampant cases of rape of Dalit women, acid attacks, eve teasing go unnoticed.
- 3) **Domestic violence and dowry deaths**- Violence on women in the family were considered family problems and were never acknowledged as "crimes against women" until recently. It is prevalent in all classes of society.
- 4) **Prostitution**- A large number of women destitute or victims of rape who are disowned by family fall prey to prostitution forcibly. There are no governmental programs to alleviate the problem of prostitution.
- 5) **Objectification of women**- Indecent Representation of Women(Prohibition) Act, 1986 prohibits indecent representation of women through advertisements or in publications, writings, paintings etc. However a whole lot of indecent representation of women is done through literature, media, paintings etc upholding the "right to freedom of expression".

Section F: Demographic Profile of Women in India

As per World economic forum survey, India's Global Gender Gap Index 2011 ranking is 113 out of 134 countries with neighbors like Bangladesh at 69 & China at 60.

- 1) **Sex Ratio** –Sex ratio is used to describe the number of females per 1000 of males. As per census 2011 sex ratio for India is 940 females per 1000 of males, i.e. females form a meager 47% of the total population. The State of Haryana has the lowest sex ratio in India and the figure shows a number of 877 of females to that of 1000 males while Kerala has the highest of 1084 females per 1000 males
- 2) **Health** - Studies on hospital admissions and records have shown that males get more medical care compared to girls. 2% of the female population is absolute anaemic. 12% of the female population of the country suffers from repeated pregnancy (80% of their productive life is spent in pregnancy) & lack of nutrition.

- 3) **Literacy** - The female literacy levels according to the Literacy Rate 2011 census are 65.46% where the male literacy rate is over 80%. While Kerala has the highest female literacy rate of 100% , Bihar is at the lowest with only 46.40%
- 4) **Employment** – Of the total female population 21.9% are a part of Indian workforce. Majority of women are employed in the rural areas and in agriculture. Amongst rural women workers 87% are employed in agriculture as laborers, cultivators, self employed like hawkers etc i.e in the unorganized sector which almost always remains invisible. Despite the equal remuneration Act 1976, women are paid lower wages, occupy lower skilled jobs, have less access to skill training and promotion.
- 5) **Political status** – Though India had a women Prime Minister Late Ms Indira Gandhi, women are not fairly represented in the Parliament & other State & Local bodies. With only around 9 per cent women in upper house and around 11 per cent in the lower house of parliament, India ranks 99th in the world in terms of female representation among MPs. However 73rd & 74th amendments to the constitution have ensured the participation of women in PRIs with a reservation of 1/3rd for women. Today more than 30 million women are actively participating in the political decision making process at the grass root.

Section G : Factors affecting women's work participation

"Without economic freedom other aspects of women equality would not be realized"

-Jawaharlal Nehru

Women's work participation rate in general has been declining over the decades. The decline has occurred due to several factors:

- 1) Absence of comprehensive and rational policy for women's emancipation through education, training and access to resources such as land, credit and technology etc.
- 2) The perception of male as the breadwinner of the family despite the fact that in low income households women's income is crucial for sustenance. This perception adversely affects women's education & training. Employers also visualize women workers as supplementary workers & also cash in on this perception to achieve their capitalistic motives by keeping the wage low for women.
- 3) Structural changes in the economy e.g decline in traditional rural industries or industrialization.
- 4) Lack of assets (land, house) in their own name in order to have access to credit and self employment opportunities
- 5) Huge demand of time and energy of women for various tasks at home like child bearing and rearing etc in addition to participation in labour force leave them with little time for education, training and self development
- 6) Division of labour based on the gender between men and women & technological advancements work against women. They are the last to be hired and first to be sacked.
- 7) Govt. programs to increase employment and productivity are focused more on men & women are seen as beneficiaries rather than active participants

Section H: Women's Organizations

Due to women's movement several legislations were passed like Equal Remuneration Act, Minimum Wage Act, Maternity Benefit Act etc. to ensure equal status to women in society & more importantly at work. However illiteracy amongst the major women workforce (87% of women are employed in unorganized sector), fear of

losing employment & lack of awareness of the laws enacted to protect them, make it difficult for women to benefit from them.

A few organizations are working to give voice to the women workers for improvement in their working conditions:

- 1) **Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)**- SEWA is a trade union. It is an organization of poor, self-employed women workers in the unorganized sector of the country. They are the unprotected labour force as they do not obtain benefits like the workers of organized sector. SEWA's main goals are to organize women workers for full employment.
- 2) **Working Women's Forum (WWF)**- The forum is committed to poverty reduction and strengthening of economic, social and cultural status of poor working women, through micro-credit, training, social mobilization and other interventions to poor women..
- 3) **Annapurna Mahila Mandal (AMM)**- It works for welfare of women and the girl child. It conducts various activities that include educating women on health, nutrition, mother and childcare, family planning, literacy and environmental sanitation. It works for the empowerment of women and enables them to take their own decisions and fight for security and rights. The organization also promotes individual and group leadership.

Section I: Government Response

- 1) **Committees on the status of women in India (CSWI)** – This was set up in a response to United Nation's general assembly Declaration of Elimination of Discrimination Against Women 1967. It submitted its report in 1974, which stressed the fact that **poor are not a homogenous group** & highlighted the unequal burden of poverty on women.
- 2) **Draft National Plan of Action for Women**- Govt has drawn up a national plan based on CSWI report. The plan accords priority to the need of concrete action in the areas of education, health, welfare and employment with special reference to weaker section of society especially women.
- 3) **It was only in 1980s that women were recognized as a separate group and a separate chapter viz "Women and Development" was included in the 6th Plan Document (1980-1985) for the first time.** Then subsequently it was included in the 5 year plans to ensure that fruits of development & benefits of Govt. programs do reach women.
- 4) **National Commission for women 1991** - The National Commission for Women was set up as *statutory body* in January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 to:
 - Protect and promote the interest and safeguard the right of women.
 - Study all matters related to constitutional and legal safeguards provided for women, to review existing legislation & suggest amendments if necessary.
 - Look into the complaints and take notice of the cases involving deprivation of women & provide support legal or otherwise to helpless and needy women.
 - It recommended the Govt. to play an active role by incorporating a component of organizing in all govt. schemes, project etc for the poor, to promote organization of women at a broader level.
- 5) **National Institute of Public Cooperation and child Development**- NIPCCD, New Delhi is an autonomous organization under the aegis of Department of women and child development. Its objective is to :
 - Develop and promote voluntary action in social development through training & capacity building of Govt. and Non Govt. functionaries

- Take a comprehensive view of women and child development & develop and promote programs in pursuance of national policy of children.
- Develop measures for coordination of governmental and voluntary action in social development.

Section J :Women empowerment Programs/Schemes by Gol

For empowering the women, various program have been initiated by Gol as below:

- 1) **Gender Budgeting-** This concept was first introduced in Australia in mid 1980s & India incorporated this in its budget since 2005-06.

It is not an accounting exercise but an ongoing process of keeping a gender perspective in policy/program formulation, its implementation and review. GB involves dissection of the Government budgets to establish its gender differential impacts and to ensure that gender commitments are translated in to budgetary commitments.

- **Nirbhaya fund-** In a tribute to the recent Delhi gang-rape victim of Dec 2012, government in the union budget 2013-14, announced setting up of a 'Nirbhaya Fund' of Rs 1,000 crore for safety and empowerment of women.
 - An **all-women bank** was also proposed to be set up by October, 2013 with an initial capital of Rs 1,000 crore for the purpose to facilitate women empowerment
- 2) **Working Women Hostel-** The objective of the scheme is to promote availability of safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women, with day care facility for their children, in urban, semi urban, or even rural areas where employment opportunity for women exist.
 - 3) **Support to training cum employment for women (STEP)-** Ministry of Women and child development launched this program in the year 1986, for training and employment for women below poverty line in traditional sectors like agriculture, small animal husbandry, dairying, fisheries etc where women are employed on a large scale. Its basic aim is to upgrade skills of women for self and wage employment.
 - 4) **Swayamsidha-** It is an integrated program, seeks to empower women through awareness generation, achievement of economic independence through micro-level income-generating activities and by establishing convergence of various services such as literacy, health, rural development etc. It also aims at organizing women into Self-Help Groups, developing access to micro credit.
 - 5) **Swa Shakti** – This project aims at establishment of more than 16000 self reliant women SHGs(Self Help Groups) having 15-20 members each & thereby enhance women's access to and control over resources for betterment of their lives. Also to sensitise and strengthen the institutional capacity of support agencies to pro actively address women's need.
 - 6) **Rashtriya Mahila Kosh** – It is a national level mechanism to meet the micro credit needs of the poor and asset-less women in the Informal Sector. From inception in 1993 till February 2001, total credit worth Rs. 100 crore was sanctioned to benefit more than 400,000 women through 827 NGOs spread over the country. RMK has a very good recovery rate of 90 to 95 per cent.
 - 7) **Swadhar-** This scheme aims to provide basic necessities to marginalised women and girls who are living in difficult circumstances without any economic or social support. Under this scheme women are provided with emotional support and counselling. The target group is mainly women who are victim of violence or survivors of natural disaster, trafficked women, and women without no families.

Section K: Analysis

In July 2013, Mumbai's First Sharia Court was set up by the Bhartiya Muslim Mahila Andolan (BMMA), for women & will be run by women to deal with muslim personal law. In the same month, tribal women in Himachal Pradesh rallied on the streets of Shimla demanding the century old law that bars women from inheriting ancestral property to be revoked. In the meanwhile in Gujarat, a young Parsi woman has taken her community leaders to court challenging the denial of access to the fire temple to Parsi women who have married non-parsis.

These apparently disparate incidences of different faiths & castes, in different parts of the country are examples of the changing equations of the female sex within the society.

The women's Liberation Movement emerged in 1970s in post independent India. For all these years women, women organizations & several feminists have been fighting for equality for all citizens irrespective of sex, for a dream of an egalitarian society. The battle of legal emancipation of women has been largely won, at least on paper with acts like equal remuneration act, criminal law amendment Act 2013 etc.

However emancipation is not the same as liberation. Through a long drawn process of socialization women have been made to believe strongly that it is alright to be subordinated to male authority being just a passive entity herself performing various roles silently without anything in return. This is the reason why even after equal right to property, they hardly claim it even today. Women's Liberation Movement does not liberate them automatically rather it highlights their subjugation & awakens them to their plight they are not aware of.

Education & Economic independence of women & awareness amongst the masses are the most important weapons to eradicate this inhumane behavior of the society towards the female sex. We are slowly but steadily heading towards an era of change & hope to see the light of change, shine on the weaker sex, as it is called one day!

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Slums and Deprivation in Urban Areas

The definition of the term 'slum' includes the traditional meaning – that is, housing areas that were once respectable or even desirable, but which have since deteriorated as the original dwellers have moved to new and better areas of the cities. The condition of the old houses has then declined, and the units have been progressively subdivided and rented out to lower-income groups. Typical examples are the inner-city slums of many towns and cities in both the developed and the developing countries.

Slums have, however, also come to include the vast informal settlements that are quickly becoming the most visible expression of urban poverty in developing world cities, including squatter settlements and illegal subdivisions. The quality of dwellings in such settlements varies from the simplest shack to permanent structures, while access to water, electricity, sanitation and other basic services and infrastructure is usually limited. Such settlements are referred to by a wide range of names and include a variety of tenure arrangements.

Although the term 'slum' is considered an easily understandable catch-all, it disguises the fact that within this and other terms lay a multitude of different settlements and communities. However, slums can be divided into two broad classes:

1. *Slums of hope*: 'progressing' settlements, which are characterized by new, normally self-built structures, usually illegal (eg. squatters) that are in, or have recently been through, a process of development, consolidation and improvement; and
2. *Slums of despair*: 'declining' neighbourhoods, in which environmental conditions and domestic services are undergoing a process of degeneration.

Operational definition of slums

The operational definition of a slum that has been recently recommended (by a United Nations Expert Group Meeting (EGM) held in Nairobi from 28 to 30 October 2002) for future international usage defines a slum as an area that combines, to various extents, the following characteristics (restricted to the physical and legal characteristics of the settlement, and excluding the more difficult social dimensions):

- inadequate access to safe water;
- inadequate access to sanitation and other infrastructure;
- poor structural quality of housing;
- overcrowding;
- insecure residential status.

The Indian census defines a slum as "residential areas where dwellings are unfit for human habitation" because they are dilapidated, cramped, poorly ventilated, unclean, or "any combination of these factors which are detrimental to the safety and health". It is an area where people live in highly congested conditions without any basic amenity of life. It is a place where the worst form of struggle for the basic needs of life is on. The slums are result of complex socio – economic dynamics but poverty is the foremost factors responsible for it. Low - income forces people to live in slum. This paper presents a sociological analysis of the urban problem in slums, especially focusing on the nature and characteristics of the slum.

The characteristics of the slum has been presented under various subheadings like housing condition, overcrowding and congestion, poor sanitation and health, apathy and social isolation, deviant behavior and the culture of the slums, that is, a way of life. In brief, this paper also tries to understand various functions of the slum. It meets various needs of its residents and performs served useful functions for certain social groups like poor and migrants workers. The most prominent ones discussed here are the traditional welfarist approach, the developmental approach, the Marxist or socialist approach and humanitarian approach.

The slums constitute the most important and persistent problem of urban life. They are often considered to be the sources of crime and delinquency, of illness and death from diseases. Slums are of all shapes, types and forms. Mumbai has its packed multistoried chawls, New York. Its Harlem and its east side Chicago – is black belt, London – its east end. Families in Bangkok crowd together in 'Pile village' composed of poorly constructed wooden shacks, bamboo huts and straw hovels along the small lanes of Kolkata, Dacca and Lagos, which stream with high humidity and stink from open drains. Impoverished shantytown or squatter shacks constructed from junks cover the hillside of Rio de Janeiro, Lima, Hong Kong and other Asian, Africa and South American cities. Even the most affluent nation in the world have slums. At least one fifth of urban population of US lives in poor or sub standard housing. Like US, other capitalist nations of the world have slums.

For instance, in Mumbai where perhaps some of the worst slums in the world can be found the skyline is getting changed by an eruption of skyscrapers of the most modern dimension, accommodating airline companies, five star hotels, officers of multinationals and affluent few metropolis.

NATURE OF SLUM

Slum is always referred to an area. The term housing conditions refers to actual living conditions rather than mere physical appearance of the area. The substandard is to be taken not in an objective or technological but rather in a relative social sense i.e., compared with the recognized standard at a given time in a specific country. Slum word has a long association with

negative connotation. It has been almost an epithet, implying evil, strange and something to be shunned and avoided. It is being apparently derived from slumber as slum were once thought by majority to be unknown, back streets presumed to be sleepy and quite.

The slum is a complex result of many products as it is true of many other social phenomena. But poverty is the foremost one, interplay of objective economic facts and subjective group standard. Low income forces people to live in slums. Slum residents are negligent and so not mind dirt. They have neither money nor the time to keep themselves clean or their area. Lack of basic infrastructure like drains, drinking water, electricity and location gives the slums a very ungraceful picture.

The three main types of slums are -

- The first type is original slum. It is an area which from the very beginning constituted of unsuitable buildings; these sections are beyond recovery need to be razed. The example of this type is the Mexican slum in Wichita.
- The second type consists of slums created by the departure of the middle class families to other sections and subsequent deterioration of the area. The example of this type is south End slum in Boston.
- The third type is the most unpleasant type of slum. It is mainly a phenomenon of transition. Once the area around a main business district becomes blighted, physical and social deterioration spreads rapidly. This kind of slum teams with accommodation for the destitute, home of prostitution, beggars, homeless men, habitual criminals, chronic alcoholics etc. This type of slum requires measures of rehabilitations.

BRIEF HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE SLUM

A study of ancient Roman ruins indicates the presence of slums in ancient times. In medieval times cities were so crowded that destitute people though small in number were kept out of the city. The Jewish ghetto was a unique type of medieval urban slum. The origin of the British slum during the 19th century as explained by Lewis Mumford is related to the industrial modern city and the factory system. Frederick Engels in his study of slum conditions in Manchester in the first manufacturing city of the world stated that the recent origin of slums belong to the industrial epoch.

Characteristics of slums

Sociologically it is a way of life, a sub culture with a set of norms and values which is reflected in poor sanitation and health practices. Deviant behavior and attributes of apathy and social isolations. People who live in slums are isolated from the general power structure and regarded

as inferiors. Slum dwellers in their harbor, suspicions of the outside world. Some of the features of slums are:

Lack of basic services

Lack of basic services is one of the most frequently mentioned characteristics of slum definitions worldwide. Lack of access to sanitation facilities and safe water sources is the most important feature, sometimes supplemented by absence of waste collection systems, electricity supply, surfaced roads and footpaths, street lighting and rainwater drainage.

Substandard housing or illegal and inadequate building structures

Many cities have building standards that set minimum requirements for residential buildings. Slum areas are associated with a high number of substandard housing structures, often built with non-permanent materials unsuitable for housing given local conditions of climate and location. Factors contributing to a structure being considered substandard are, for example, earthen floors, mud-and-wattle walls or straw roofs. Various space and dwelling placement bylaws may also be extensively violated.

Overcrowding and high density

Overcrowding is associated with a low space per person, high occupancy rates, cohabitation by different families and a high number of single-room units. Many slum dwelling units are overcrowded, with five and more persons sharing a one-room unit used for cooking, sleeping and living. Density does not always result in unfortunate social consequence; the issue is primarily one of overcrowding. Congestion is again a judgment about the physical condition of the building in terms of high density per block, acre or square mile. **William F. Whyte** in his well known sociological study, **Street Corner Society** situated in Boston's north end, stressed upon the importance of overcrowding as a criterion for measuring slum conditions. Some slums area like Delhi, have 40, 00,000 people per square mile. Similarly Bangkok requires at least 15 dwelling units per 1600 square meters.

Unhealthy living conditions and hazardous locations

Unhealthy living conditions are the result of a lack of basic services, with visible, open sewers, lack of pathways, uncontrolled dumping of waste, polluted environments, etc. Houses may be built on hazardous locations or land unsuitable for settlement, such as floodplains, in proximity to industrial plants with toxic emissions or waste disposal sites, and on areas subject to landslip. The layout of the settlement may be hazardous because of a lack of access ways and high densities of dilapidated structures.

Insecure tenure; irregular or informal settlements

A number of definitions consider lack of security of tenure as a central characteristic of slums, and regard lack of any formal document entitling the occupant to occupy the land or structure as *prima facie* evidence of illegality and slum occupation. Informal or unplanned settlements are often regarded as synonymous with slums. Many definitions emphasize both informality of occupation and the non-compliance of settlements with land-use plans. The main factors contributing to non-compliance are settlements built on land reserved for non-residential purposes, or which are invasions of non-urban land.

Poverty and social exclusion

Income or capability poverty is considered, with some exceptions, as a central characteristic of slum areas. It is not seen as an inherent characteristic of slums, but as a cause (and, to a large extent, a consequence) of slum conditions. Slum conditions are physical and statutory manifestations that create barriers to human and social development. Furthermore, slums are areas of social exclusion that are often perceived to have high levels of crime and other measures of social dislocation. In some definitions, such areas are associated with certain vulnerable groups of population, such as recent immigrants, internally displaced persons or ethnic minorities.

Also every residential area within the modern city tends to be socially isolated from others, partly by choice and partly by location. The slum is especially inhabited by people of lower status i.e., lower income groups. The chief link with rest of the community is there identification with labour market, but there may be an additional links through politics. A slum has an image in the eyes of the larger community. There is a societal reaction to slum dwellers. The non-slum dwellers often associates the physical appearance and difficult living conditions of the slums with belief in the “Natural Inferiority” of those who live in slums. This reaction has important consequences in the social isolation of slum dwellers and their exclusion from power and participation in urban society. The slum dwellers often lack an effective means of communication with the outside world. Because of apathy, lack of experience in communicating with outsiders and their own powerlessness to make their voice heard. William F. Whyte stated that although the north end slum studied in his work on street corner society was a mysterious, dangerous and depressing place to an outsider, it provided an organized and familiar environment for those who lived in it.

Minimum settlement size

Many slum definitions also require some minimum settlement size for an area to be considered a slum, so that the slum constitutes a distinct precinct and is not a single dwelling. Examples are the municipal slum definition of Kolkata that requires a minimum of 700 square

meters to be occupied by huts, or the Indian census definition, which requires at least 300 people or 60 households living in a settlement cluster.

The experience of 'living in a slum', according to slum dwellers, consists of a combination of these multiple dimensions, not only one. Many slum areas may show only a few of these negative attributes, while the worst may have them all. The 'worst type of slum household' is prone to all of the above disadvantages, which, to an extent, also constitute some of the main obstacles that have to be overcome in realizing the right to adequate housing: one that has no services, has poor-quality housing on fragile land, does not have secure tenure, and where the occupants are poor, marginalized and belong to a vulnerable group. Less badly affected households may carry one or more of these burdens.

Deviant Behavior

A high incidence of the deviant behavior – crime, juvenile delinquency, prostitution, drunkenness, drugs usage, mental disorder, suicide, illegitimacy and family maladjustment have long been associated with slum living. It is a fact that vice may be found in slums but is by no means confined only to slums. Due to lack of money and power often slum dwellers indulge in crimes which are bestowed by upper classes. It is a vicious cycle for the slum dwellers.

The culture of slum – A way of life

Slums differ widely with respect to the social organization of its inhabitants. They range from slums in which inhabitants are strangers to one another, to the family slums in which there is a wide acquaintance between the inhabitants. Slums inhabited by immigrants groups may have a firm social organization. Culture might be defined as system, symbols or meanings for the normative conduct of standard, having three distinct properties. It is transmittable, it is learned and it is shared. The slum has a culture of its own and this culture is the way of life. This way of life is passed from generation to generation with its own rationale, structure and defence mechanism, which provides the means to continue in spite of difficulties and deprivation. It is the habits, customs and behaviour pattern people have learned and which they hold that move them to act in a particular way. Although, these cultural patterns are typical of the slum, from ethnic groups, from own society to society to another.

THE INDIAN CONTEXT: SOCIO - ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE INDIAN SLUMS

The pattern of urbanization in India has been marked by regional and interstate diversities, large scale rural to urban migration, insufficient infrastructural facilities, growth of slums and other allied problems. One of the major problem of growing urbanisation and inequality in

urban areas result in slums. Thus is acute shortage of housing in urban areas and of the available accommodation is of sub-standard variety. This problem has tended to worsen over year due to rapid increase in population, fast rate of urbanization and proportionately inadequate addition to the housing stock. Millions of people pay excessive rent which is beyond their means. In our profit –oriented economy, private developers and colonizers find little profit in building houses in cities for the poor and the lower middle class, and they concentrate in meeting the housing needs of the rich as it is gainful.

With large scale migrations to urban areas many find that the only option they have is substandard conditions of slums. Slums are characterized by substandard housing, overcrowding, lack of electrification, ventilation, sanitation, roads and drinking water facilities. They have been the breeding ground of diseases, environmental pollution, demoralization and many social tensions.

Rapid growth of urban population and low investment in urban development have created serious shelter problem and deficiencies in basic amenities in the towns and cities of the country resulting in growth in slum population.

These deficiencies are more serious for urban poor due to inequality in the access to these amenities (Kundu 2002). The information available from the national sample survey in its various rounds, pertaining to slum conditions, access to housing and other amenities, provides interesting insight into the interdependences between poverty and quality of life. This can be analyzed to understand the dynamics of development of slums and the nature of vulnerability of the population importantly, NSS for the first time in 1993 in its 49th round provided information on the quality of housing and availability of basic amenities by canvassing a uniform definition of slums in 21 states and union territories.

An analysis of NSS data reveals that about 15% of the urban households reside in slums areas. The slums, however, constitute an extremely heterogeneous category. The physical structure can be described as kuccha in case of 35% slums 'while for another 34 percent, it would be pucca. This implies that more than thirty percent of the slums have predominantly pucca structures. Moreover 87 percent of the pucca slums has access to tap water. For semi-pucca slums, the figure is 73 percent while for kuccha slums it works out around 30 only. Tap water is available to 65% of the slum population while for average urban dwellers, the figure is marginally higher viz. 70%. The real difference between the slum and the non-slum areas, however, emerges in terms of nature of access to the facility. About 64 percent of the households in slums have taps only on the, community level while for non - slum households, this problem exists only for 25% (Kundu 2003).

The situation is far more serious with regard to sanitation. The percentage of urban households here report not having any toilet facility in 1993 works out to be about 31 which is much higher than figure for drinking water.

The other major problem in the slums is that of drainage. Since about 52% of the households here report having either kuccha open system or total absence of drainage facility water logging in rainy season occurs for as many as sixty percent of the slums this problem is faced in non-slum areas as well but the percentage figure is less.

Improvements in case of water supply facilities have been reported in about 50 % slums while the figure for road is 42%, as per the data from the 49th round of NSS. For drainage and garbage disposal, improvements are noted in about 30% slums.

In case of the slums reporting improvement work in roads, water supply, drainage and garbage disposal facilities during the five years, more than ninety percent are those where these activities have been undertaken by government agencies. This reflects the insignificant role played by private sector and NGO's in slum improvement. The important role played by the local bodies is evident from the fact that while 35 % of the slums have no provision of the garbage disposal, 80% of the remaining depend on the municipal bodies for this service. It is only for latrines and sewerage that the non-governmental agencies claim a share of about 10%.

APPROACHES TO THE SLUM PROBLEMS

The traditional welfares' approaches advocate the policy of destroying the slums, tearing it down physically and redevelopment with subsidized housing. It is believed that providing welfare services to slums dwellers is the best way to bring about changes in slum areas and to solve the slum problems. This traditional approach to slum problems through clearance and redevelopment with subsidized housing has been criticized in its application to the developing countries.

There is no question that measures to bring about improvements in economic conditions will be great value to slum people. These includes more adequate wages, guaranteed minimum income, in - discriminatory employment policies, accessible and inexpensive credit, programme to train and retain youths and adults, more effective training for certain occupational countries.

Gita Dewan Verma (2000) has highlighted this issue in her work "slumming India". She argues that the real problem is not the pervasive urban squalor that offends us all, but rather the moral and intellectual bankruptcy that sustains it. She states that for the urban poor minimal 'landless' options - outreach services instead of hospitals, street education instead of proper

schools, slum upgrading in the place of housing -all have become very fashionable. They are also one -way streets. Once all urban land is lost to less essential, more glamorous uses there will be no turning the slumming clock back. After all it is impossible that an MM on an excessive 200 acres of land or a new fangled cyber park or any of the plush farmhouses larger than the ceiling limits will be dynamited to make room for T.B. sanatorium or a municipal school or a low income housing project and if and when our welfare state happens to change its mind about what is needed for urban welfare and stop urban slumming. According to her even competing interests in urban resources the state should make planned development a fundamental need of urbanites, calling for a high degree of responsibility on the part of those in charge of urban governance.

In other words this approach relies directly on the slum dwellers themselves. If their apathy and dependence can be overcome and replaced by pride and a sense of initiative, the slum dwellers can make good use of solving their manifold problems. The approach to the problems of the city slums through urban community development involves the following elements.

1. Creation of a sense of social cohesion on a neighborhood basis and strengthening of group interrelationship.
2. Encouragement and stimulation of self- help, through the initiative of the individuals in the community.
3. Stimulation by outside agencies where initiative for self- help is lacking.
4. Reliance upon persuasion rather than upon compulsion to produce change through the efforts of people.
5. Identification and development of local leadership
6. Development of civic consciousness and acceptance of civic responsibilities
7. Use of professional and technical assistance to support the efforts of the people involved
8. Coordination of city services to meet neighborhood needs and problems
9. Provisions of training in democratic procedures that may result in decentralization of some government functions.

There are four main objective of urban community development programme applicable to the slums are

- (i) development of community feeling;
- (ii) self -help improvement of a person or
- (iii) a group by its own contributions and efforts and largely of its own benefit;
- (iv) Indigenous leadership and cooperation between govt. and the people in the use of services.

Some of Governments' Initiatives on redressing slum problems

- Public distribution system (PDS)
- Antyodaya Anna Yojana
- National Slum Development Programmes
- Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission
- Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana

The **Marxist and Socialist** approach to the problem of the slums clearly points out only solution that if only the land in urban areas is nationalized and removed from the orbit of market operation. (see A.R Desai and S. Devidas, 1972). This single step, which does not require resources, but only breaking away from bourgeois norms of private property and legitimacy on remuneration to unearned income occurring to ownership, will remove half the problem of the urban areas by ceasing all activities that have developed around land as a marketable commodity. Abolition of private profit seeking agencies for constructional activities is another essential step for the solution of the urban problems especially slums. Only public assurance and provision of work to every able-bodied worker can provide the vast majority of non-property classes the purchasing power so necessary for survival. This assurance can be given only if employment in production, distribution and service is freed from market operation of capitalist competitive economy. An economy based on social ownership of the means of production and a social development that does not treat human beings as commodities.

The **humanitarian approach** to the problem of slums basically highlights the triumph of the human spirit over poverty. **Kalpna Sharma** (2000) in her famous case study "**Rediscovering Dharavi Mumbai Slum**" Challenges the conventional notion of a slum. According to her Dharavi is much more than a cold statistic. What make it special are the extraordinary people who live there, many of whom have defied fate and an unhelpful state to prosper through a mix of back breaking work, some luck and a great deal of ingenuity. Once the government launched programme that guaranteed people security, they are willing to redevelop areas or upgrade their dwellings. The process and manner in which slums are reorganized or redeveloped have to be done in consultation with the people involved.

In Dharavi, there are already a few examples like Rajiv Gandhi cooperative in kalyan Wadi, which shows all is possible when a community is consulted on all aspects of slum redevelopment. The mainstream institutions of finance have rarely considered the needs of the poor. While Maharashtra government's plan to provide free housing to slum dwellers is commendable because it recognizes the investments that most of them have already made in their housing.

The economic determinant that culminated in the creation of existing slums are still at work however undesirable our slums may be, from a humanitarian viewpoint they do provide shelter to low - income families. If economic growth, full employment or lowering of discrimination towards job applicants should raise the real income of the majority of those living in the slums housing qualities would tend to improve.

According to Census 2011

- Nearly one in every six urban Indian residents lives in a slum. The new numbers are significantly lower than the slum growth that had been projected for India.
- Roughly 1.37 crore households, or 17.4% of urban Indian households lived in a slum in 2011.
- The new data is difficult to compare with previous years, because the 2011 Census covers all 4,041 statutory towns in India, as compared to 2001 when only statutory towns with population over 20,000 were covered.
- The 2001 data had set India's slum population at 15% of the total population.
- With the exception of sanitation, the indicators on housing amenities for slum and non-slum households in most of India are more similar than most would expect. Over 77% are permanent and 70% are owned, and not rented. Close to half are made up of just one room and most are home to one married couple.
- Over 70% of slum households get their water from a tap but just half get water inside their homes. Over 90% get electricity and most use LPG for cooking; 70% have a TV and 10% even a computer.
- More than one in five urban households in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal and Maharashtra lives in a slum. In absolute terms, Maharashtra has the highest number of slum blocks of any state - over 21,000 out of a total of just over 1 lakh for the whole country.
- Over a third of India's slum population lives in its 46 million-plus cities. Of the metros, Mumbai has the highest proportion of slum-dwelling households (41.3% of its population). Kolkata is next at nearly 30% with Chennai not far behind. Delhi has 14.6% of its households living in slums while Bangalore is the best off of the five metros at less than 10%.
- **City Proportion of slum households (%)** Greater Mumbai 41.3 Kolkata 29.6 Chennai 28.5 Delhi 14.6 Bengaluru 8.5.

CONCLUSION

Urbanization is an ongoing phenomenon which is very difficult to capture through single approach or analysis, especially in India. In above topic it is tried to capture different aspects of slums, history to present situation, the various approaches to study slums and the problems and consequence of urbanization, its characteristics. It should be noted that slums issues have multidimensional nature. One can find inter-relationship with most of the issues concerning slums dwellers with the problems related to urbanization. It is a process which is linked to many structures and process.

Some theorists suggests that increasingly divergent forms of urban organization are likely to emerge due to differences in the timing and pace of the urbanization process, differences in the position of cities within the global system, an increasing effectiveness of deliberate planning of the urbanization process by centralized governments holding different values and, therefore, perusing a variety of goals for the future.

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Introduction

Urbanization in India was mainly a post independence phenomenon, due to adoption of mixed system of economy by the country, which gave rise to the development of private sector. Urbanization has been taking place at an increasingly fast rate in India. Population residing in urban areas in India, according to 1901 census, was 11.4%. This count increased to 28.53% in the 2001 census, and has crossed 30% as per the 2011 census, standing at 31.16% to be exact. According to a 2007 UN State of the World Population report, by 2030, 40.76% of country's population is expected to reside in urban areas. As per the World Bank, India, along with China, Indonesia, Nigeria and the United States, will lead the world's urban population surge by 2050.

Urbanization, indeed is the process of becoming urban, moving to cities, changing from agriculture to other pursuits common to cities, such as trade, manufacturing, industry and management, and corresponding changes of behavior patterns. It is the process of expansion in the entire system of interrelationships by which population maintains itself in the habitat.

An increase in the size of towns and cities leading to growth of urban population is the most significant dimension of urbanization. In ancient times there have been great many cities such as Rome or Baghdad, but ever since industrialization and increasing industrial production cities have grown phenomenally and now urbanization is very much part of our contemporary life.

Definition

In this section, we will discuss different definitions and phenomenon's associated with the urban areas. It includes Census definition of Urban areas, Urban Agglomeration, Over-Urbanization, Sub Urbanization, Counter Urbanization and Census towns.

In 1961 census, 'town' was defined and determined on the basis of number of empirical tests:

- a) a minimum population of 5000
- b) a density of not less than 1,000 per square mile,
- c) three-fourth of the occupations of the working population should be outside of agriculture.
- d) the place should have a few characteristics and amenities such as newly founded industrial areas, large housing settlements and places of tourist importance and civic amenities.

Urban Agglomeration: This term was introduced in 1971 census. Very often large railway colonies, university campuses, port areas, military camps etc. come up outside the statutory limits of the city or town but adjoining it. Such areas may not themselves qualify to be treated as towns but if they form a continuous spread with the adjoining town, it would be realistic to treat them as urban. Such settlement has been termed as outgrowths, and may cover a whole village, or part of a village. Such towns together with their outgrowths have been treated as one urban unit and called 'urban agglomeration'.

Over-Urbanization: It refers to the increased exemplifications of the characters of urbanization in a city or its surrounding rural area. It results from excessive development of urban traits. Due to the expansion of the range of urban activities and occupations, greater influx of secondary functions like industry, increasing and widespread development of an intricate bureaucratic administrative network, the increased sophistication and mechanization of life and the influx of urban characters into the surrounding rural area, over urbanization gradually replaces the ruralistic and traditionalistic traits of a community. Mumbai and Kolkata are two such examples of cities.

Sub-Urbanization: It is closely related to over-urbanization of a city. When cities get over-crowded by population, it may result in sub-urbanization. Delhi is a typical example. Sub-urbanization means urbanization of rural areas around the cities characterized by the following features:

- a sharp increase in the 'urban (non-agricultural) uses' of land
- inclusion of surrounding areas of towns within its municipal limits, and
- intensive communication of all types between town and its surrounding areas

Counter-Urbanization: It is a demographic and social process whereby people move from urban areas to rural areas. It first took place as a reaction to inner-city deprivation and overcrowding. Counter urbanization occurs when some large cities reach a point where they stop growing further or actually begin to decrease in size as their population start moving into suburban areas or smaller cities thereby leapfrogging the rural-urban fringe. There are instances which show that the phenomenon of counter urbanization is occurring in India.

Census Towns: In 2011, a new definition of census town has been developed. This urban classification of 'census towns' helps differentiate between India's small farming communities and the larger market town-type settlements that are experiencing rapid and haphazard growth.

To be classified as a census town, a village must fulfill three criteria;

- a) it need atleast 5,000 inhabitants,
- b) a density of 400 people per sq. km, and
- c) atleast three quarters of its male working population must be "engaged in non-agricultural pursuits".

Process of Urbanization

Urbanization as a structural process of change is generally related to industrialization but it is not always the result of industrialization. Urbanization results due to the concentration of large-scale and small scale industrial an commercial, financial and administrative set up in the cities; technological development in transport and communication, cultural and recreational activities. The excess of urbanization over industrialization that makes it possible to provide employment for all persons coming to urban areas is, in fact, what sometimes leads to over urbanization.

In India, a peculiar phenomenon is seen: industrial growth without a significant shift of population from agriculture to industry and growth of urban population without a significant rise in the ratio of the urban to the total population. While in terms of ratio, there may not be a great shift from rural to urban activities, but there is still a large migration of population from rural areas to urban areas. This makes urban areas choked; while at the same time there is lack of infrastructural facilities to cope with this rising population.

In context of India, the process of urbanization is seen as a socio-cultural process, economic process and a geographical process. As a **socio-cultural phenomenon**, it is a melting pot of people with diverse ethnic, linguistic and religious backgrounds. As an **economic process**, the city is a focal point of productive activities. It exists and grows on the strength of the economic activities existing within itself. Under the **geographical process**, it deals with migration or change of location of residence of people and involves the movement of people from one place to another.

Urbanization in India

India has a long history of urbanization with spatial and temporal discontinuities. It is an ongoing process that has never stopped and has rarely, slowed down since it's beginning. Urbanization in India is divided into different phases, beginning from Indus valley civilization to reaching watermark during the Mughal period and also contribution from the British made to the process of urbanization in India.

Post-independence witnessed rapid urbanization in India on a scale never before achieved. The major changes that have occurred in India's urban scene after India's urban independence are the building of new administrative cities, the construction of new industrial cities and township near major cities, the rapid growth of one-lakh and one million cities, the massive growth of slums and rural-urban fringe, the introduction of city planning and the general improvement in civic amenities.

India is rapidly urbanizing and the rate of urbanization is expected to climb steeply over the next few decades. McKinsey Global Institute (2010) predicts an urban population of 590 million by 2030, as compared to 340 million in 2008. For India to be more inclusive, it is imperative that both economic growth and urban population be more equitably distributed. Therefore, any meaningful long-term vision for India would be incomplete without planning for the cities of tomorrow.

Urbanization in India has occurred more slowly than in other developing countries and the proportion of the population in urban areas has been only 28 per cent based on the 2001 census. The pace of urbanization is now set to accelerate as the country sets to a more rapid growth. Economic reform has already unleashed investment and growth offering its citizens rich opportunities. Surging growth and employment in cities will prove a powerful magnet. 300 million Indians currently live in towns and cities. Within 20-25 years, another 300 million people will get added to Indian towns and cities. This urban expansion will happen at a speed quite unlike anything that India has seen before. It took nearly forty years for India's urban population to rise by 230 million. It could take only half the time to add the next 250 million. If not well managed, this inevitable increase in India's urban population will place enormous stress on the system

The speed of urbanization poses an unprecedented managerial and policy challenge—yet India has not engaged in a national discussion about how to handle the seismic shift in the makeup of the nation.

Urban India today is “distributed” in shape—with a diverse range of large and small cities spread widely around the nation. India will probably continue on a path of distributed model of urbanization because this suits its federal structure and helps to ensure that migration flows aren't unbalanced toward any particular city or cities.

As the urban population and incomes increase, demand for every key service such as water, transportation, sewage treatment, low income housing will increase five-to seven fold in cities of every size and type. And if India continues on its current path, urban infrastructure will fall woefully short of what is necessary to sustain prosperous cities.

Recent reports suggest that India spends \$17 per capita per year in urban infrastructure, whereas most benchmarks suggest a requirement \$100. The investment required for building urban infrastructure in India, over the next 20 years, is estimated at approximately US\$ 1 trillion.

There has been an incomplete devolution of functions to the elected bodies as per 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, possibly because of the unwillingness of the state governments. In addition, very few Indian cities have 2030 master plans that take into account peak transportation loads, requirements for low-income affordable housing and climate change. In general, the capacity to execute the urban reforms and projects at the municipal and state level has been historically inadequate.

Social effects of Urbanization

Urbanization has far reaching effects on larger societal process and structures. Following are some of the sections-

Family and kinship Urbanization affects not only the family structure but also intra and inter-family relations, as well as the functions the family performs. With urbanization, there is a disruption of the bonds of community and the migrant faces the problem to replace old relationships with new ones and to find a satisfactory means of continuing relationship with those left behind.

I.P. Desai (1964) showed that though the structure of urban family is changing, the spirit of individualism is not growing in the families. He found that 74 percent families were residentially nuclear but functionally and in property joint, and 21 percent were joint in residence and functioning as well as in property and 5 percent families were nuclear.

Aileen Ross (1962) in her study of 157 Hindu families belonging to middle and upper classes in Bangalore found that

1. about 60 percent of the families are nuclear
2. the trend today is towards a break with the traditional joint family form into the nuclear family form into the nuclear family unit.
3. Small joint family is now the most typical form of family life in urban India.
4. Relations with one's distant kin are weakening or breaking.

Urbanization and Caste: It is generally held that caste is a rural phenomenon whereas class is urban and that with urbanization, caste transforms itself into class. But it is necessary to note that the caste system exists in cities as much as it does in villages although there are significant organizational differences.

Caste identity tends to diminish with urbanization, education and the development of an orientation towards individual achievement and modern status symbols. **It has been pointed out that among the westernized elite, class ties are much more important than caste ties.**

However caste system continues to persist and exert its influence in some sectors of urban social life while it has changed its form in some other sectors. Caste solidarity is not as strong as in urban areas as in the rural areas. Caste panchayats are very weak in cities. There exists a dichotomy between workplace and domestic situation and both caste and class situations co-exist.

Urbanization and the Status of Women: Women constitute an important section of rural urban migrants. They migrate at the time of marriage and also when they are potential workers in the place of destination. While middle class women get employed in white collar jobs and professions, lower class women find jobs in the informal sector. Women are also found in the formal sector as industrial workers.

Increasing number of women have taken to white-collar jobs and entered different professions. These professions were instrumental in enhancing the social and economic status of women, thereby meaning increased and rigorous hours of work, professional loyalty along with increased autonomy. The traditional and cultural institutions remaining the same, crises of values and a confusion of norms have finally resulted. The personally and socially enlightened woman is forced to perform dual roles - social and professional.

The status of urban women, because of being comparatively educated and liberal, is higher than that of rural women. However in the labour market, women continue to be in a disadvantaged situation.

Problems of Urbanization

The patterns of urbanization in India has been marked by regional and interstate diversities, large scale rural to urban migration, insufficient infrastructural facilities, growth of slums and other allied problems. Some of the important problems of urbanization faced in different parts of India are as follows:

Housing and Slums

There is acute shortage of housing in urban areas and much of the available accommodation is of sub-standard quality. This problem has tended to worsen over the years due to rapid increase in population, fast rate of urbanization and proportionately inadequate addition to the housing stock.

With large scale migration to urban areas many find that the only option they have is substandard conditions of slums. Slums are characterized by sub-standard housing, overcrowding, lack of electrification, ventilation, sanitation, roads and drinking water facilities. They have been the breeding ground of diseases, environmental pollution, demoralization and many social tensions.

With India's slum population standing at nearly 40%, slum dwellers form 44% of population in Delhi, 45% in Mumbai, 42% in Calcutta and 39% in Chennai.

Over Crowding

In major cities in India like Mumbai, Kolkata, Pune and Kanpur, somewhere between 85% and 90% of households live in one or two rooms. In some homes, five to six persons live in one room. Over-crowding encourages deviant behavior, spreads diseases and creates conditions for mental illness, alcoholism and riots. One effect of dense urban living is people's apathy and indifference.

Water supply, Drainage and Sanitation

No city has round the clock water supply in India. Intermittent supply results in a vacuum being created in empty water lines which often suck in pollutants through leaking joints. Many small towns have no main water supply at all and are dependent on the wells. Drainage situation is equally bad. Because of the non-existence of a drainage system, large pools of stagnant water can be seen in city even in summer months.

Removing garbage, cleaning drains and unclogging sewers are the main jobs of municipalities and municipal corporations in Indian cities. There is a total lack of motivation to tackle the basic sanitation needs of the cities. The spread of slums in congested urban areas and lack of civic sense among the settlers in these slums further adds to the growing mound of filth and diseases.

Transportation and Traffic

Absence of planned and adequate arrangements for traffic and transport is another problem in urban centres in India. Majority of people use buses and tempos, while a few use rail as transit system. The increasing number of two-wheelers and cars make the traffic problem worse. They cause air pollution as well. Moreover, the number of buses plying the metropolitan cities is not adequate and commuters have to spend long hours to travel.

Pollution

Our towns and cities are major polluters of the environment. Several cities discharge 40 to 60 percent of their entire sewage and industrial effluents untreated into the nearby rivers. Urban industry pollutes the atmosphere with smoke and toxic gases from its chimneys. All these, increases the chances of diseases among the people living in the urban centres. According to UNICEF, lakhs of urban children die or suffer from diarrhoea, tetanus, measles etc. because of poor sanitary conditions and water contamination. As a long-term remedy, what is needed is using new techniques of waste collection, new technology for garbage-disposal and fundamental change in the municipal infrastructure and land-use planning.

The above is not an exhaustive list of the problems of urbanization. A whole lot of other problems including increasing rate of crime in the cities, increasing old age population and absence of social security for them, enhanced role and sphere of market has led to the poor and marginalized suffering the most. Studies have also shown that stress levels are found high in cities, which in turn has deleterious impact on the health of the people.

Urbanization and Governance

Governance forms an integral part of Urbanization. Governance is the weakest and most crucial link which needs to be repaired to bring about the urban transformation so urgently needed in India. Financing the large sums required to meet the investment needs of urban infrastructure is crucially dependent on the reform of institutions and the capacity of those who run the institutions for service delivery and revenue generation. It is seen that large expenditures on Indian cities and towns have to be combined with better governance structures, strong political and administrative will to collect taxes and user charges, and improved capacity to deliver. Cities must be empowered, financially strengthened, and efficiently governed to respond to the needs of their citizens and to contribute to the growth momentum.

The municipal entities need to be strengthened as local governments with 'own' sources of revenue, predictable formula-based transfers from state governments, and other transfers from the Government of India and state governments to help them discharge the larger responsibilities assigned to them by the 74th Constitutional Amendment. Improved tax revenues combined with rational user charges will enable cities to leverage their own resources to incur debt and also access new forms of financing through public private partnership (PPP). Only then can they augment the urban infrastructure base, provide improved quality of services on a sustainable basis to their residents, and contribute to the growth momentum of the Indian economy.

Administrative reforms commission in its 6th report mentioned measures to strengthen the urban governance. Some of its important recommendations are-

- a) Urban local bodies should be given responsibility for water supply and distribution in their territorial jurisdiction whether based on their own source or collaborative arrangements with other service providers.
- b) Sanitation, as a matter of hygiene and public health, must be given priority and emphasis in all urban areas. In all towns, advance action for laying down adequate infrastructure should be taken to avoid insufficiency of services.
- c) Community participation and co-production of services should be encouraged by municipal bodies. This should be supplemented by awareness generation.
- d) In all towns and cities with a population above one lakh, the possibility of taking up PPP projects for collection and disposal of garbage may be explored.
- e) Municipal bodies should be encouraged to take responsibility of power distribution in their area.
- f) Urban Transport Authorities, to be called Unified Metropolitan Transport Authorities in the Metropolitan Corporations, should be set up in cities with population over one million within one year, for coordinated planning and implementation of urban transport solutions with an overriding priority to public transport.

Way forward

India needs to work on several areas to manage its urbanization: The following are perhaps the most important: Inclusive cities, funding, planning, capacity building and low-income housing India also needs to start a political process where the urban issues are debated with evolution of meaningful solutions:

Inclusive Cities The poor and lower income groups must be brought into the mainstream in cities. Regulations intended to manage densities and discourage migration both limit the supply of land **and** require many households to consume more land than they would choose. This drives urban sprawl and pushes up the price of land and the cost of service delivery for all. High standards for parking, coverage limits, setbacks, elevators, road widths, reservations for health centers schools etc. (often not used) prevent the poor from choosing how much to consume of the costliest resource (urban land) to put a roof over their heads, and comply with legal requirements.

Financing: Devolution has to be supported by more reforms in urban financing that will reduce cities' dependence on the Centre and the states and unleash internal revenue sources. Consistent with most international examples, there are several sources of funding that Indian cities could tap into, to a far greater

extent than today: Monetizing land assets; higher collection of property taxes, user charges that reflect costs; debt and public-private partnerships (PPPs); and central/state government funding. However, internal funding alone will not be enough, even in large cities. A portion has to come from the central and state governments.

Planning: India needs to make urban planning a central, respected function, investing in skilled people, rigorous fact base and innovative urban form. This can be done through a “cascaded” planning structure in which large cities have 40-year and 20-year plans at the metropolitan level that are binding on municipal development plans. Central to planning in any city is the optimal allocation of space, especially land use and Floor Area Ratio (FAR) planning. Both should focus on linking public transportation with zoning for affordable houses for low-income groups. These plans need to be detailed, comprehensive, and enforceable.

Local capacity building: A real step-up in the capabilities and expertise of urban local bodies will be critical to devolution and improvement of service delivery. Reforms will have to address the development of professional managers for urban management functions, who are in short supply and will be required in large numbers. New innovative approaches will have to be explored to tap into the expertise available in the private and social sectors.

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G. S. PAPER – I

Effects of Globalization on Indian Society

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Effects of Globalization on Indian Society

Meaning

In very simple terms, globalization can be understood as increasing global interconnectedness. It is a process rather than an outcome, which refers to the trend towards growing interconnectedness in different parts of the world. Primarily it is an interchange of economic, social, cultural, political, psychological and technological attributes that take place between different societies when they come into contact with each other. Though this interchange has been going on for times immemorial, this process was termed as “globalization” for the first time around the second half of 20th century; while much of the literature on this has appeared since the late 1970s and 1980s.

Effects of Globalization on Indian society

Economic

Although it has made an impact in many different spheres, the economic dimension of globalization has been far more prominent and far-reaching than any other. Indian economy has been affected by it in the following ways:

- **Liberalization** - In India, the pace of globalization gathered momentum when the then central government (Narasimha Rao government) introduced the package of reforms at the behest of IMF and World Bank, aimed at economic liberalization in June 1991. The main features of the liberalization policy of Indian government have been:
 - General reduction in role of the state in economic governance;
 - Withdrawal by the state from many economic sectors and its replacement by the private sector;
 - Decline in the government/public sectors in basic and key industries, banking, insurance and other public sector undertakings;
 - Decline in role of the state in provision of public social services like education, housing and health;
 - Future development through wider participation of the private sector and hence more dependence on the market for exchange of goods.
- **Privatization** - Privatization largely means selling of publicly owned assets to private owners. With the aim of privatizing the economy, the Indian government adopted various measures in the 1990s. Initiatives such as abolition of licence raj for deregulation of the industries, scrapping of legislations such as MRTP and FERA, approval for 100% equity for NRIs, streamlining of approval committees, disinvestment in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), and reference of sick industrial units to the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction for rationalization were taken towards privatization of the Indian economy.
- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Globalization of Financial Market** - Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is the money invested in production by a foreign party rewarded with part-ownership of production. Of the three important aspects of liberalization – finance, trade and investment – financial liberalization has been the most pronounced. During this globalization era there has been progressive and extensive liberalization of controls on financial flows and markets leading to economic globalization. Economic globalization and financial liberalization centres on the movement of capital, of which FDI was a major form.

The largest proportion of FDI approvals in India has been in the infrastructure and core sectors such as power, telecommunications, energy exploration, and chemical and metallurgical industries. India followed a case-by-case approach in approving FDI. FDI in India depends on the assessment of India relative to other countries on several fronts. The main considerations are political stability and credibility of reforms, the state of infrastructure, especially power, transport and communication, national policy regime, speed and transparency in implementation of government policies, labour market conditions and the intellectual property rights issue.

- **International Trade Regulatory Body – WTO**

India is a founder member of GATT and its successor, the WTO. India's participation in an increasingly rule based system in the governance of international trade is claimed to ensure more stability and predictability, which may lead to more trade and prosperity. By being a member of WTO India automatically avails most favoured nation and national treatment for its exports to all WTO nations. India made necessary legislative changes to implement WTO standard intellectual property laws in the year 2005, although after showing initial resistance.

- **Multinational and Transnational Companies and their Functioning**

The deregulation of economies and financial markets led to a sharp increase in financial transactions across national boundaries. The process of globalization has brought to the fore a new set of international actors – the multinational corporations (MNCs).

Although multinational companies, like all businesses, are primarily motivated by a desire to make profits, their establishment of production facilities in developing countries may be both beneficial and detrimental to the peoples of such countries in certain ways. It may affect a country like India, for example, in terms of

- Creation of jobs, bringing in improved technological process and thereby higher labour and environmental standards, providing revenue by way of paying taxes, etc.
- Influencing the policies of the government,
- Worsening the labour conditions for maximizing profits.
- Repatriating their profit to the respective home countries rather than reinvesting in India.
- Driving small scale companies out of business
- Evading taxes
- Violating human rights and damaging the environment etc.

- **Infrastructure Development**

The current phase of globalization warranted for the countries of the world faster and large-scale development of infrastructure to facilitate industries dependent on import and export as well as to become more competitive in the world market. India needed massive investments in road building, development of port facilities and in power and telecommunications sector to attract more and more foreign trade. In the mid-1990s the Indian government estimated a total spending of 200 billion dollars over the next one decade in infrastructure development. To meet this requirement the government drew funds from the private sector and from overseas investors and with this aim, it opened power, telecommunications and transport sectors to foreign direct investment.

- **Expansion of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Birth of Information Age**

One of the striking aspects of contemporary society is the rapid development of information technology for application in different areas of electronic activities with significant implications.

- Since the 1970s, leadership in the global economy has begun to shift to another set of industries, one that combines computers, the television, the (digital) telephone and other communication tools, which can be collectively called as information industries. Prominent among these are the

computer industry, composed of several subsections including large, hard and software sectors; the revitalized telephone industry transformed into telecommunications with such new sectors such as cellular, wireless and cable and multifaceted ever changing media complete with their content providers and distributors.

- The contemporary speed of change, the enlargement of capacity for information transmission and the proliferation of communications media are very different from what has been experienced in the past. The extraordinary explosion of both technology and information has considerably reduced the twin concepts of time and space. In particular Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has emerged as perhaps the most dominant force in the global system of production although with significant ramifications in all other spheres of contemporary human existence.
- Improved communication reduced effective distance for the transmission of information. International telephone and fax traffic has become largely instantaneous, cheap and simple for individuals to access.
- The Internet provides a genuinely global system of communication and information. Satellite and cable TV and VHF radio have created an abundance of choice in news and entertainment.
- The augmented expansion of information technology in the past few decades resulted in a phenomenal growth of “outsourcing” of service in the world over. During the third wave the process of information handling, transmission, storage and retrieval became the key to prosperity and qualitatively different way of life. Success in just about any field has become impossible without information technology.
- In farming, manufacture, education, policing, medicine, entertainment, banking or whatever, IT is apparently set to change everything that human beings do. Beginning of computing with telecommunications is considered to have marked the beginning of a new information and communication age.
- Information technology shortens labour time and diminishes the production worker and actually replaces labour as the source of added value in the national product. Knowledge and information have come to supersede labour and capital as the central variables of the economy.

- **Outsourcing of Services –**

In a more globalized world, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) became the backbone of the business world and there was a rapid growth of Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) around the globe. This sector became a major part of the IT industry. Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) forms an important part of the ITES industry. Outsourcing is required in different areas like Finance, Health, Accounting, Human Resources of companies, etc. “Outsourcing” is the process through which one company hands over part of its work to another company, making it responsible for the design and implementation of the business process under strict guidelines regarding requirements and specifications from the outsourcing company. Thus BPO takes a set of activities and takes on the responsibility of reengineering the entire way the operation is done. This process is beneficial to both the outsourcing company and the service provider, as it enables the outsourcer to reduce costs and increase quality in non-core areas of business and utilise their expertise and competencies to the maximum.

Social Effects

The social dimension of globalization refers to the impact of globalization on the life and work of people, their families and societies. Concerns are often raised about the impact of globalization on employment, working

conditions, income and social protection. Beyond the world of work, the social dimension encompasses security, culture and identity, inclusion or exclusion and the cohesiveness of families and communities etc.

○ **Withdrawal of National Government from Social Sector**

- The liberalization of the economy resulted in a general reduction in the role of the State in economic governance. The reduction in the government's economic role is reflected in a decline in public spending.
- Reduction of the government and public sector's role and their replacement with private sector means that the access of people to employment, capital and social services like education, housing and health services has become dependent on market forces.
- The structural adjustment policies of the national government involving the relinquishing of economic activities from the public sector into the hands of the private sector, i.e., the state moving away from economic planning and leaving economic decisions to the market, has resulted in a partial withdrawal of social protection to the public.
- Reducing social benefits in order to reduce payroll fringe costs to increase competitive ability leads to "social dumping" which means a process that lowers production costs through low wages and substandard social conditions.
- In India the social sector expenditure as a proportion of GDP had been stagnant during the 1990s and there had been a definite shift away from rural development. The share of health expenditure had been stagnant too, while that of education had been declining. The government is further trying to reduce the size of current expenditure by reducing expenditure on pensions, subsidies etc.

○ **Labour Reforms and Deteriorating Labour Welfare –**

- Deregulation and privatization of state enterprises have been key components of structural adjustment programmes, introduced by International Financial Institutions as conditionalities attached to aid packages to developing countries and for the acceleration of economic liberalization. Labour market deregulation has been an important feature of the structural adjustment programme. There has been explicit deregulation, whereby formal regulations have been eroded or abandoned by legislative means, and implicit deregulation whereby remaining regulations have been made less effective through inadequate implementation or systematic bypassing. Such deregulation has been based on the belief that excessive government intervention in the labour market through such measures as public sector wage and employment policies, minimum wage fixing, and employment security rules is a serious impediment to adjustment and should therefore be removed or relaxed.
- States around the world have felt compelled to ease labour standards, modify tax regulations and generally relax standards of security and oversight in a bid to attract more and more FDI. This has progressively lowered labour standards.
- Big corporate companies like TNCs and MNCs have evolved a vendor system of subcontracting for their production. The companies give out their work to labourers, through contractors, who in turn deliver the output to the company. This results in job insecurity for the labourer and worsening of labour welfare, since there is no support system for their welfare.
- The current pace of globalization also results in casualization or informalization of the work force causing low wages for labourers and less job security, although it creates employment opportunities to some among the work force. The growth of the informal sector means that the traditional employment related benefits and mechanisms of protection are not available to those employed in this sector.

- Increased mechanization and use of new technology demands more skilled labour and displaces unskilled labour. The new technologies and fast changing market – the resultant features of globalization – also tend to make existing skills obsolete and require upgradation, new skills and multi-skilling. It also opens up new markets, which workers can reach by adapting existing or traditional skills.
- Liberalization of the economy has caused loss of employment in some sectors without creation of new employment. Opening up of the market and free flow of trade and low tariffs encouraged flow of foreign goods lowering the employment opportunities of Indian labourers. For example, thousands of silk spinners and twisters of Bihar have lost their job due to the import of China-Korea silk yarn as weavers and consumers prefer this yarn because it is somewhat cheap and shiny.

○ **Feminization of Labour –**

- Women have entered the labour force in large numbers in countries that have embraced liberal economic policies. Industrialization in the context of globalization is as much female-led as it is export-led. The overall economic activity rate of women for the age group 20-54 approached 70% in 1996. The highest absorption of women has been witnessed in the export oriented industrial sector. This is especially the case in the export processing zones and special economic zones and in those labour intensive industries that have relocated to developing countries in search of cheap labour.
- Investors have demonstrated a preference for women in soft industries such as apparel, shoe- and toy-making, data processing, semiconductor assembling industries that require unskilled to semi-skilled labour.
- Nevertheless this did not ensure a better status for women in any way. The informal sector where women were absorbed in large numbers along with globalization offer very poor labour conditions. Such industries where women were mostly engaged happened to be highly labour intensive, service oriented and poorly paid. In many countries workers in the export processing zones find unionization and collective bargaining nearly impossible. In call centers in India women comprise an estimated 40% of the workforce.

○ **Poverty**

- Opening up of economies was primarily visualized as a mechanism where trade would function as “an engine of growth” and the fruits of growth would “trickle down” to the poor. However, the results have been mixed, with many countries observing widening inequalities in their economies, contrary to the conventional trade theory prescriptions.
- The internalization of trade has opened up vistas for globalization of production, creating profound changes in the labour market, such as widening wage disparity, increasing contractualization of work, skill-based segregation of work, etc.
- Globalization and liberalization policies resulted in impoverishing more and more people of the lower strata the world over.
- Industrialization and genetic engineering of food and globalization of trade in agriculture accelerated poverty in the agriculture-based nations of the world.
- The globalization of non-sustainable industrial agriculture adversely affected the incomes of the farmers of the developing and least developed countries through a combination of devaluation of currencies, increase in costs of production and a collapse of commodity prices, all resulting from the liberalization of the economy.

- In India, the first generation reforms concentrated on the industrial economy while the agricultural and rural sector were neglected.
- In the urban sector, the large metropolitan cities are the ones most immediately affected due to liberalization and globalization, with significant changes in land use and work patterns. The claims made in the beginning of reforms of bringing about employment growth does not seem to be true after studying the data for the post-reform period.
- Economic liberalization and globalization had a direct impact both on rural and urban poverty. The substantial changes in the institutional arrangement for rural credit, a key factor in helping the poor to escape poverty, due to the reforms in the banking sector have gone against the interests of the rural poor.
- The unsustainable development practices also led to the impoverishment of the poor. The decline in social sector expenditure or stagnation in social sector expenditure in proportion to GDP also went against the interests of the poor.
- In urban areas, the large scale private investment, both foreign and Indian, led to the acquisition of city lands which in turn affected the poor, mainly slum dwellers, hawkers, destitutes, street dwellers as they were pushed out of the city to the peripheries which are marked by degeneration with low value employment and poor living conditions.

○ **Unsustainable Development Practices**

- The development practices followed the world over during the globalization era marked by a high level of market competitiveness often seemed to follow unsustainable development practices. For instance, in India the replacement of native seeds by imported hybrid seeds or cash crops resulted in more and more exploitation of ground water through tube-wells since these crops need more water. The over exploitation of the groundwater in turn resulted in the depletion of ground water level leading to famines and poverty. The high yielding hybrid seeds are vulnerable to pest attacks resulting in more use of pesticides. The indiscriminate use of chemical-based fertilizers, especially subsidized fertilizer, has created an imbalance between the essential mineral contents such as Nitrogen and Potassium. There is a growing realization of the degradation of land, water and environment due to the current pattern of agricultural production and its sustainability among the people.
- The export oriented policy of the Indian government in the fisheries sector opened up the waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone to MNCs and TNCs for fish trawling. This resulted in the indiscriminate destruction of the marine ecosystem and loss of livelihood of the traditional fishing community.

○ **Migration and Urbanization**

- The current pace of economic globalization has put a new spin on global migration, causing global uprootedness and human displacement on an unprecedented scale.
- Migration for many becomes not a choice but an economic necessity mainly because of the unequal development between nations, and between rural and urban centres.
- Urbanization is an important driving force for commuting because urban areas offer many economic opportunities to rural people. Urban labour markets offer opportunities to switch jobs rapidly, diversify incomes, and become upwardly mobile with a very low asset base and skills although there is a lot of variation in the rate of urbanization around the world.
- Economic growth based on the expansion of manufacturing industry, a trade mark of current globalization, tends to be associated with higher rates of urbanization while growth based on the expansion of agriculture is associated with the reverse.

- The driving force will be the expansion of labour-intensive exports, which will boost the demand for labour in urban areas, and widen wage gaps between rural and urban areas.
 - There is also evidence that in India people move away from farming sector due to macro-economic reforms where reduction of subsidies and removal of inter-district movements of grains have put smaller farmers out of business. In such cases the option before them is to migrate to places where there are better economic opportunities.
- **Commercialization of Indigenous Knowledge**
- The globalization process invades territories, habitats and resources of indigenous people, which may lead to destruction of their way of life. Big corporate entities get access to indigenous knowledge and patent it for their gain and profit. The result can be that the indigenous people and the rest of the humanity will have to pay for access to the knowledge that will thus have been commercialized. Pharmaceutical corporations in the United States of America, under the auspicious of Human Genome Diversity Programme, are patenting the indigenous people themselves. They monopolize the use of seed, medicines and traditional knowledge systems and human genomes.
 - Even the life supporting systems of humanity such as land, water, wildlife, aquatic life, mineral resources have become commodities in the present globalization process at the cost of the lives and livelihoods of vast majorities around the world. This may result in environmental devastation, social displacement, wiping out of cultural and biological diversity.
 - Also, the centralized management of natural resources imposed by trade and investment agreements does not have space for intergenerational and intragenerational sustainability.
- **Rising Inequality in Wealth Concentration**
- Globalization is a very uneven process, with unequal distribution of benefits and losses. In the ongoing process of globalization investment resources, growth and modern technology are focused in a few countries such as North America, Europe, Japan, and the East Asian countries, which are the newly industrialized countries of the world. The majority of the developing countries are excluded from the process and participating in marginal ways that are often detrimental to their interests; for example, import liberalization may harm their domestic producers and financial liberalization may cause instability.
 - Globalization affects different categories of countries differently. While growth and expansion is visible in fully participating countries, moderate and fluctuating growth is seen in some countries attempting to fit into the new globalized framework. Marginalization and deterioration are also experienced by many countries, which are unable to get out of acute problems like commodity prices and debt burden.
 - The uneven and unequal nature of the present globalization process is manifested in the fast growing gap between world's rich and poor people and between developed and developing countries and in the large differences among nations in the distribution of gains and losses.
 - Polarization among countries has also been accompanied by increasing income inequality within countries. In India, average incomes rose more rapidly in urban areas than in rural areas between 1993 and 2000, implying widening gaps between rural and urban areas.

Cultural Effects

Globalization has a profound effect on all our cultures and on the ways we live our lives. It has affected what we eat and the way we prepare our food, what we wear as well as the fiber from which our clothes are made, it has affected the music we hear, the books we read, even the language we use to communicate with each other.

Increased Pace of Cultural Penetration

- Cultural dynamism is the outcome of a process of mixing; borrowing and adapting cultural attributes and often the attributes that are borrowed and adopted come from cultures that are alien, distant and foreign.
- Today, in the hi-tech communication era, in which ICTs made communication easier, faster and cheaper than in the past, more and more cultural interpenetration is taking place. In other words, we can say that the acceleration of globalization hastens the pace of cultural change.
- Cultural interpenetration through the exchange of commodities is today so pervasive that it is difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish between original and imported cultural attributes.
- Likewise diseases, which originated in one place of the world, are spread to other parts of the world, e.g., HIV/AIDs spread from Africa to the rest of the world.
- The penetration of global music has resulted in the marginalisation of traditional music among different cultures of the world. Today, pop music and its local variations can be heard in all social settings from weddings to religious festivals and birthday celebrations.

The Globalization of Culture

- Trade agreements have removed all obstacles and resistance to corporate invasion and control of human society. With liberalization of telecommunications, corporate culture is set to rule the world.
- Today the whole world is wired and plugged into the same TV programmes, movies, news, music, lifestyles and entertainment. Satellite cables, phones, Walkman, VCDs, DVDs and retail giants and other marvels and wonders of entertainment technology are creating the mass markets of culture and leading to expansion of consumer culture. This may lead to a homogenized global culture.
- In the case of the media industry, the logic of profit and competition has driven media corporations to enlarge media and space markets, and to break down the old boundaries and frontiers of national communities.
- With the advancement of science and technology and the improvement of markets, the world has turned into a global village. It has also resulted in the emergence of global mass culture due to the increase in consumerism. It may make for increasing similarities in life styles around the world evading local cultural heritage.
- The contemporary global communication technologies are leading to globalization of culture, which may undermine the meaning of community and traditional institutions as well as values of life. For example, in India it has ended the tradition of story telling through which the old handed over their experience, culture, traditions, oral history and way of life to the young who had a sense of place and their roots.
- Likewise, computers have become a substitute for human interaction. Our own culture is being systematically appropriated and “commodified”. Folk and tribal festivals are being packaged and marketed through electronic media, plucked out of context and cut off from their roots.

Development of Hybrid Culture

Like the two faces of Janus, globalization at times has been inclusive and integrating and at other times disintegrating and exclusivist. This is true of cultural impact also. As globalization may lead to one single world culture or a homogenized culture, it is also likely to lead to new permutations, new combinations, new options and new cultures. Thus global encounters and interactions may produce inventive new cultural forms. In this sense there emerges a “third culture” or hybrid culture, the trademark of which is social innovation and change co-existing with continuities and tradition in social and cultural life.

Resurgence of Cultural Nationalism

Globalization also gives rise to active cultural campaigning to defend local identities. Nations reject global cultural integration and people remain loyal to local histories, identities and traditions. For example, European countries have campaigned against the threat of Americanization (standardisation) and have defended the diversity and difference of European cultures. It is also possible that attempts are made within the country by certain sections of people who refuse to integrate or adopt alien cultures as well as conduct massive movements against this trend. For example Shiv Sena activists have been campaigning against Valentine's Day celebrations in India.

Conclusion

Globalization, as we have seen is a far-reaching process leaving its imprint, though in varying degrees, in all walks of contemporary human life. In this document, we had a detailed look at the economic, social and cultural dimensions of globalization. Under the economic dimensions of globalization, aspects such as liberalization, privatization, foreign direct investment, infrastructure development, expansion of information technology, etc., have been discussed. Among the social dimensions of globalization we have had a look at the various social aspects that have an impact on the everyday life of social beings. Finally we also looked at the cultural dimensions of globalization. We have seen how multifarious cultures interacting at an ever increasing speed and various cultures are under testing conditions. There is also a resurgence of cultural nationalism in various parts of the globe.

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